

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Devos Reg. No. 37,813 on May 20, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On Page 17, replace Paragraph 0048 with the following:

[0048] The control card 803 and the line cards 601A - 601D illustrated in Figure 8 include memories, processors, and/or ASICs. Such memories include a machine-readable medium on which is stored a set of instructions (i.e., software) embodying any one, or all, of the methodologies described herein. Software can reside, completely or at least partially, within this memory and/or within the processor and/or ASICs. For the purpose of this specification, the term "machine-readable medium" shall be taken to include any mechanism that provides (i.e., stores and/or transmits) information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a computer). For example, a machine-readable medium includes machine storage media (read only memory ("ROM"), random access memory ("RAM"), magnetic disk storage media, optical storage media, flash memory devices) and machine transmission media (electrical, optical, acoustical or other form of propagated signals (eg., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc.)), etc..

In the claims:

Each of claims 54-64 has been amended to include, in the preamble, the word “storage” between the words “machine-readable” and “medium” (e.g., “machine-readable storage medium”)

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record does not teach or suggest in detail maintaining a routing information base responsive to the plurality of routing protocol modules; distributing forwarding information bases (FIBs) including network layer information to each of a plurality of line cards; maintaining for each of a plurality of label switched paths (LSPs) forwarding data structure that is separate from the interface structures and that does not include the set of network layer information; and selectively distributing different ones of the forwarding data structures to different ones of the plurality of line cards to establish label forwarding information bases (LFIBs) devoid of network layer information, wherein the LFIBs are separate from the FIBs, wherein each forwarding data structure is selectively distributed to only the one of the plurality of line cards that is an ingress point into the network element for the LSP represented by that forwarding data structure.

3. The dependent claims further limit the independent claims and are considered allowable on the same basis as the independent claims as well as for the further limitation set forth.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Claims **9-14, 18-21 and 56-67** are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to UZMA ALAM whose telephone number is (571)272-3995. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays and Tuesdays 5:30 - 2.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Uzma Alam
UA
May 20, 2008

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/Ario Etienne/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2157